

issues

Message from the State Veterinarian

GREETINGS FROM the Indiana State Board of Animal Health. I want to thank the members of the agricultural for your support during this winter's legislative session.

Thanks to you, as well as others closely aligned with animal agriculture, the Indiana State Board of Animal Health's budget has been restored, after several years of cuts.

In an unprecedented way, the Daniels administration provided the opportunity for BOAH to submit change requests to our baseline budget for priority items. Governor Daniels included those items in his budget package that was presented to the General Assembly. My staff and I appreciate your support in helping legislators to understand why these programs are so critical to agriculture in Indiana.

The monies will also allow BOAH to restore animal health programs for disease prevention and emergency preparedness, as well as meet the needs of Indiana's growing and expanding dairy industry, while protecting public health.

We've already begun implementing some changes that these funds will enable with the new fiscal year, beginning July 1. In the coming year, many of these changes will become more obvious, as we rebuild our staff and improve the technologies BOAH will be using on a daily basis. I welcome your feedback and input as we move ahead.

Bret D. Marsh, DVM
Indiana State Veterinarian

Companion Animal/Equine

THE WEST Nile virus (WNV) season is nearly upon Indiana, and the dry summer conditions are ideal for Culex mosquitoes. Culex mosquitoes are the variety of mosquito most commonly known to carry the potentially devastating West Nile virus.

Horse owners are encouraged to make the West Nile vaccine part of their animals' regular, annual health maintenance regimen. The vaccine is now available in combination products that can provide protection against several diseases, such as tetanus and Eastern equine encephalitis, in one dose.

Annual boosters are essential to maintaining immunity. The initial vaccination requires a series of two shots, with the second to follow within three-to-six weeks of the first. Many animals have had the original vaccination, but without the booster, have been infected with the virus in following years.

Along with vaccinations, property owners are encouraged to work to eliminate potential breeding sites for mosquitoes, including sources of standing water, like puddles, buckets, old tires, gutters and bird baths. Mosquitoes can reproduce in very small quantities of standing water in less than a week. Horse owners should pay close attention to keeping water in stock tanks fresh.

issues

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Cattle/Ruminants

THE KANSAS Animal Health Department has imposed new importation restrictions on cattle intended for breeding and/or milking into Kansas. Because of possible exposure to brucellosis infected wildlife, cattle herds in several states surrounding Yellowstone Park pose a greater risk of having brucellosis and may spread it to other herds as well as to other states through export. Until further notice: all cattle intended for breeding and/or milking purposes, originating from a county in Idaho, Montana or Wyoming, where brucellosis infected elk are known to inhabit, that are test eligible (females 18 months of age and older, bulls 12 months of age and older), must be tested negative for brucellosis within 30 days prior to import into Kansas, unless the animals originate from a brucellosis certified free herd. If they originate from a certified free herd, the certification number must be recorded on the Certificate of Veterinary Inspection.

BOVINE TUBERCULOSIS has generated growing concern in several states. In addition to Michigan and Minnesota, which have been battling the disease in their free-range deer population, a case was recently identified in a South Dakota cattle herd—the first in more than 35 years. Bovine Tuberculosis has also been detected in dairy cattle in Curry County New Mexico. In addition to the infected herd in Curry County, The outbreak could threaten New Mexico's status as a bovine tuberculosis-free state.

To prevent bovine TB infection, Idaho has imposed new import restrictions on cattle. All cattle used for rodeo or timed events must have a negative bovine tuberculosis test within the last 12 months prior to importation into Idaho.

Johne's Disease

BOAH HAS received additional funding through its cooperative agreement with USDA-APHIS Veterinary Services for the Voluntary Johne's Disease Control Program. These dollars will allow BOAH to assist beef and dairy producers with Risk Assessment/Management Plans or testing costs conducted by Certified Johne's veterinarians. This additional funding is available to herds with anniversary dates between June 1, 2007 and December 31, 2007.

These producers were previously notified that funding would not be available for this time period. The funding available is \$150 per herd. This funding may be used through the certified veterinarian to do Risk Assessment and Management Plans and/or herd testing.

Effective immediately a limited number of new herds may also be enrolled in the Voluntary Johne's Control Program. For more information about enrolling a new herd, contact Ed Lucas, Johne's disease Program Coordinator at 317/227-0317 or elucas@boah.in.gov. For more information about Johne's disease and the Voluntary Johne's Disease Control Program, contact Dr. Bruce Lamb, Director, Johne's disease Program, at 574-529-0910 or blamb@boah.in.gov.

Swine

SWINE DIVISION director Dr. John Johnston will be retiring from BOAH on July 31. A 1967 Purdue University School of Veterinary Medicine graduate, Johnston worked in private practice before joining the Indiana State Board of Health (now Indiana State Department of Health) as part of the Meat and Poultry division (now part of BOAH) as a training officer and Area Veterinarian. In 1994 Johnston joined BOAH as Director of the Swine Division, playing an integral role in the eradication of pseudorabies. Johnston

has played an active role in chronic wasting disease surveillance and animal emergency planning for Indiana and BOAH.

Following retirement, Johnston looks forward to continuing his participation in the ASERT program and the Indiana Veterinary Medical Association Program Committee. Johnston also plans to dedicate more time to studying his family genealogy, spending time with his grandchildren and making sure dinner is on the table when his wife Stella arrives home from work.

PSEUDORABIES MADE a comeback recently in Wisconsin, where two swine herds tested positive for the disease. Wisconsin animal health officials were able to trace all herd contacts and complete testing in the short time period required to maintain their state's PRV-Free status.

Wisconsin officials noted that efforts to identify potentially exposed locations could have been faster and more efficient, if all herds had complied with the state's premise registration requirement. This, relatively small, incident reinforces the need for Hoosiers to register their livestock premises with BOAH to protect Indiana's access to markets.

For more information about pseudorabies visit www.boah.in.gov or contact the BOAH swine division at 317/227-0310

USDA-APHIS recently conducted an investigation at a Minnesota slaughter facility after a shipment of swine from Canada showed signs of illness. Preliminary test results were negative for foreign animal diseases. Officials believe the illness is likely caused by viruses already known to exist in the United States, enterovirus or circovirus. The swine tested positive for both of these viruses, neither of which poses a threat to human health. Because enterovirus and circovirus pose no threat to human health or food safety, the USDA hold has been lifted for all animals associated with this investigation.

Animal Issues In Disasters Course

ANIMAL ISSUES in disasters are always a concern for BOAH, animal owners and Hoosier practitioners alike. BOAH recently hosted the "Animal Issues in Disaster" training course in Lafayette, IN. Nearly 50 Hoosier veterinarians, veterinary technicians, animal control personnel and other emergency response personnel attended the one day course. The course is offered at no charge.

Students who complete the course may receive continuing education credits, as provided through the Indiana Department of Homeland Security (IDHS) training division.

The course includes an overview of the emergency management structure in Indiana, followed by an in-depth look at how response to animal health emergencies, such as foot-and-mouth disease, would unfold in Indiana. After a lunch break (lunch on your own), participants reconvene to dive into planning for "situational" disasters, such as floods, tornadoes or chemical spills.

BOAH has offered this training since 2002. The class is designed to increase understanding and awareness for students from a wide range of backgrounds, including (but not limited to) livestock producers, animal control officers, law enforcement and fire fighters, veterinarians and technicians, humane shelter volunteers, and first responders of all disciplines. The diversity of backgrounds in any given class adds to the depth of the course.

Classes are available for groups of 25 or more people and can be held in one eight hour session or two four-hour sessions. Groups interested in hosting a class should contact Denise Derrer, Public Information Director, at 317/227-0308 or dderrer@boah.in.gov.

ASERT

THE ANIMAL Surveillance and Emergency Response Teams (ASERTs) are in search of veterinarians interested in emergency preparedness and response. Positions are available in central, west-central, south-central and south-east Indiana.

ASERT brings federal Homeland Security dollars to Indiana communities in a new way to protect human and animal health. Each team has been tasked to work locally, within the region, to be involved with planning and readiness for animal-related emergencies. ASERT members serve as resources to local emergency planners and may be called upon to respond during animal health emergencies in support of BOAH efforts to detect, contain and control diseases. The mission of this program is to increase the capacity of Indiana and its veterinary community to address homeland security issues. This program will result in teams of veterinarians who are prepared to manage animal health emergencies rapidly and effectively.

For more information about the ASERT program, or to apply for a position as an ASERT member in your area, contact Dr. Marianne Ash, Director, Biosecurity Planning, at mash@boah.in.gov.

Avian

THE INDIANA State Poultry Association (ISPA) and the BOAH veterinary interns have spent the summer meeting with Indiana's backyard poultry producers. As part of the National Poultry Improvement Plan (NPIP), ISPA, with the help of BOAH's Avian division and summer interns, the Purdue Animal Disease Diagnostic Lab (ADDL) and county Extension Educators, have launched a new program known as the Indiana Test 12 Program. Producers have been meeting with the Test 12 team at events statewide. By attending the meeting and bringing one dozen eggs from their flocks, producers have learned the basics of biosecurity and receive the opportunity for testing their respective flocks for diseases. In fact, they even got a free T-shirt!

There are several benefits to Indiana's Test 12 program. Samples are easily obtained and packaged; in fact, the eggs do not need refrigeration, which adds to the cost effectiveness of the program. This type of program minimizes the collector's exposure to disease and reduces the risk of cross contamination of sampled flocks. What's more, the Indiana State Poultry Association is paying for all testing. Samples are tested for a number of diseases including: Group D Salmonellae, Mycoplasma pullorum, Mycoplasma synoviae and avian influenza.

For more information about the Test 12 program or to inquire about a local meeting, contact Dr. Michael Kopp, Avian Division Director at 317/227-0324 or mkopp@boah.in.gov.

Aquaculture

A NEW disease that has not been identified in Indiana that is raising concern is viral hemorrhagic septicemia (VHS) in fish. This disease, which can cause high mortality in some species of fish, has been spreading throughout the waterways of the Great Lakes. State and federal wildlife officials are worried that it is only a matter of time until VHS makes its way into the waters of all the Great Lakes states. Sport fishermen, boaters and those in the aquaculture industry need to be vigilant in biosecurity and preventing moving fish and water from infected waterways.

FISH SCHOOL was a big success for BOAH. The one-day workshop focused on fish anatomy, farm inspections and certifications, organized aquatic veterinary medicine and state aquaculture regulations. The 51 participants, including six students and 16 private practitioners had the unique opportunity to learn fish anatomy and try their hand at fish dissection, necropsy and sampling techniques. What's more, the sample fish were caught by BOAH's very own Dr. Jennifer Strasser!